



COMMISSION ON
MIDDLE EASTERN
AMERICAN AFFAIRS
M I C H I G A N

MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 29, 2015 - 11:30 A.M.

MDCR EXECUTIVE OFFICES, CAPITAL TOWER BUILDING
110 WEST MICHIGAN AVENUE, 8TH FLOOR COMMISSION ROOM
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48933

MINUTES

Commissioners Present:

Manal Saab, Chair
Michael Romaya, Vice Chair
Sharif Hussein, 2nd Vice Chair
Lina Harajli, Treasurer
Suzanne Sukkar, Secretary
Mariam Bazzi, Trustee
Dave Abdallah

Wendy Acho
Bishr Al-Ujayli
Fay Beydoun
Susan Dabaja
Haifa Fakhouri (first hour of meeting)
Helen Habib
Abe Munfakh

Guest: Governor Rick Snyder

EXCUSED: None

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Manal Saab at 11:30 A.M. Chair Saab provided welcoming remarks and polled commissioners for roll call.

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

On Motion duly made and supported, the Meeting Agenda was approved. *Motion carried unanimously.*

III. REMARKS BY GOVERNOR RICK SNYDER

IV. COMMISSION ORIENTATION, ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL RON ROBINSON

Mr. Robinson provided a brief introduction to the Open Meetings Act (OMA), Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Robert Rules of Conduct.

V. COMMISSION LOGO AND BRAND, COMMUNICATIONS/MEDIA RELATIONS PROTOCOL BY MDCR DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS VICKI LEVENGOOD

Ms. Levengood provided a visual of the proposed logo and brand for the Commission, as well as protocols regarding communications and media relations.

VI. REVIEW OF DRAFTED BYLAWS BY COMMISSIONER MICHAEL ROMAYA

Commissioner Romaya proposed draft bylaws for the commission to review and approve. After discussion, the Commission determined that the Bylaws should be adopted; suggestions for revisions and addendums will be directed to Commissioner Romaya.

On Motion duly made and supported, the Commission adopted the proposed Bylaws with suggested revisions and addendums to follow. *Motion carried unanimously.*

VII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Office of First Vice Chair

Nomination of Michael Romaya by Sharif Hussein, second by Lina Harajli

Nomination of Abe Munfakh by Helen Habib, second by Dave Abdallah

Vote: 6-5, **Commissioner Michael Romaya**

Office of Second Vice Chair

Nomination of Sharif Hussein by Michael Romaya, second by Suzanne Sukkar

No other nominations.

Vote: 7-4, **Commissioner Sharif Hussein**

Office of Treasurer

Nomination of Lina Harajli by Suzanne Sukkar, second by Susan Dabaja

No other nominations.

Vote: Unanimous, **Commissioner Lina Harajli**

Office of Secretary

Nomination of Suzanne Sukkar by Lina Harajli, second by Bishr Al-Ujayli

No other nominations.

Vote: Unanimous, **Commissioner Suzanne Sukkar**

Office of Trustee

Nomination of Wendy Acho by Sharif Hussein; Acho declined nomination.

Nomination of Mariam Bazzi by Lina Harajli, second by Susan Dabaja

No other nominations.

Vote: Unanimous, **Commissioner Mariam Bazzi**

VIII. SCHEDULING OF 2016 MEETING DATES

After discussion, the final dates for the 2016 meeting schedule include:

January 28, 2016 – to be hosted by Lina Harajli (Dearborn)

April 28, 2016 – to be hosted by Wendy Acho (Metro Detroit)

September 8, 2016 – to be hosted by Fay Beydoun (Dearborn)
October 27, 2016 – to be hosted by Sharif Hussein (Lansing)

All meetings will have a start time of noon convening at 2 P.M.

On Motion duly made and supported, the 2016 Commission Meeting Schedule was adopted. *Motion carried unanimously.*

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

X. NEW BUSINESS

For the internal commission directory, Commissioner Abe Munfakh requested that the terms of each commissioner also be included. Chair Saab indicated that all revisions for the directory be sent to her Assistant, Kimberly Sly.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Saab at 1:47 P.M.



Suzanne K. Sukkar, Secretary



Manal B. Saab, Chair